**The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China**

Possible areas of enquiry

* What do the archaeological finds from the sites in the Yellow River Valley of the second millennium BC tell us about the people who lived during the time of The Shang Dynasty?
* Were the people of the Shang Dynasty warriors?
* How do we know that they were good metal workers?
* What do the legends and stories of the Yin and Zhou People tell us about the Shang Dynasty?

There are many interesting comparisons that can be made between the people of Ancient Egypt (1500 BC) and the Shang Dynasty (2000 BC). It would be interesting to compare and contrast their religious beliefs, their preparations for the ‘After Life’, their representations of musical instruments and their understanding of astrology, but possibly most fascinating is the development of writing in the form of Chinese characters in the Shang dynasty and hieroglyphs in Ancient Egypt. The former is represented on bronze inscriptions and on oracle bones and the latter on the painted interiors of tombs.

The following websites provided information that children could access:

[www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)

[www.newworldencyclopedia.org](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org)

www.wikipedia.com

www.timemaps.com

[www.historyforkids.org](http://www.historyforkids.org)

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

The last three are quite simple.